

Appl. No. 10/694,601
Amdt. dated 3/16/06
Reply to Office action of January 24, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-8 are now in the application and are subject to examination. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. No claims have been added. Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled to facilitate prosecution of the instant application.

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102", item 3 on pages 2-3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-8 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,293,470 to Asplund under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's statement in "Allowable Subject Matter", item 4 on page 3 of the Office Action, that claims 9 and 10 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

The claims have accordingly been amended to add the subject matter of claims 9 and 10 to claims 1 and 5, respectively. Claims 1-8 should therefore be in condition for allowance.

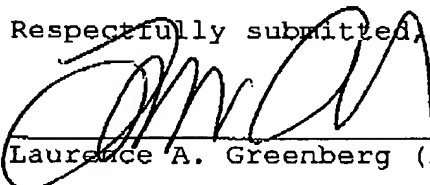
In view of the foregoing, since only allowable claims remain, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8 are solicited.

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In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested, as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg, Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099. Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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LAG/am

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